



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE**

CINDY HYDE-SMITH
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce

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Adulterated Korean Oysters Removed from Local Grocery Stores

Agriculture Commissioner, Cindy Hyde-Smith, announced today that the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce has placed off sale several packages of frozen Korean oysters, because the product was from an unapproved source and considered to be adulterated by the Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The Department's consumer protection inspectors found the product this morning at small, Asian retail establishments in Biloxi, Hattiesburg, and Ridgeland.

The Department, which partners with FDA and USDA on food safety issues, was informed Tuesday by FDA that all fresh and frozen Korean molluscan shellfish and any product derived from Korean molluscan shellfish, i.e. breaded shellfish, were considered by the FDA to be adulterated and from an unapproved source. The Department informed all MDAC licensed retail establishments on Tuesday that the products were considered adulterated by FDA and would be placed off sale by Department inspectors.

The FDA has determined that the Korean Shellfish Sanitation Program does not meet the sanitation controls spelled out under the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP). All South Korean shellfish shippers were removed from the Interstate Certified Shellfish Shippers List (ICSSL) following this evaluation. Only the entities on that list can enter shellfish into interstate commerce. It is to be recognized, that canned shellfish do not fall under this designation.

"As the Commissioner of Agriculture, I have the responsibility of ensuring that safe products are offered to the public for sale in our retail stores. Our consumer protection division and its inspectors have alerted these retail outlets and have mounted a full-fledged effort at ridding our stores of any of this adulterated product," said Hyde-Smith.

The products placed off sale are as follows:

Frozen ASSI Brand Oyster, 8 oz packages,

Frozen ASSI Brand Oyster-Block, 16 oz packages, and

Frozen ASSI Brand Oyster, 20 oz. packages.

If you have any questions, then you may contact the Consumer Protection Division of the Department at 601-359-1148.

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